

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A method for treating a subject whose liver has experienced a loss of functional liver cells, the method comprising administering to the subject cardiotrophin-1(CT-1) in an amount effective for stimulating hepatic regeneration in the subject ~~comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT1) to a patient in need thereof.~~

Claim 13 (currently amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject has undergone for stimulating hepatic regeneration following surgical hepatectomy comprising ~~administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) to a patient in need thereof.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended) A method for preventing damage to a liver in a subject in need of or subject to a hepatectomy or liver transplant comprising administration to the subject prior to the hepatectomy or transplant of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) ~~or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1 to a patient in need thereof.~~

Claim 15 (currently amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject suffers ~~need for hepatic regeneration results~~ from a chronic liver disease.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The method according to claims 12 wherein the subject suffers the need for hepatic regeneration results from acute, subacute, fulminant or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The method according to claim 12 wherein the subject suffers need for hepatic regeneration results from hepatic cirrhosis.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The method according to claims 12, wherein the subject has undergone need for hepatic regeneration results due to a liver transplant.

Claims 19 - 27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (new). The method according to claim 14, wherein the subject is in need of or subject to a hepatectomy.

Claim 29 (new). The method according to claim 14, further comprising partially resecting the liver of the subject after the administration of the CT-1.

Claim 30 (new). The method according to claim 14, wherein the subject is in need of or subject to a liver transplant.

Claim 31 (new). A method for stimulating the proliferation of, or for the protection against

apoptosis of, liver cells *in vitro*, said method comprising the step of treating the liver cells *in vitro* with cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) in an amount effective for the proliferation or protection.

Claim 32 (new). The method according to claim 32, wherein the method is for stimulating the proliferation of liver cells and the liver cells are treated *in vitro* with the cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) in an amount effective for the proliferation.

Claim 33 (new). The method according to claim 31, wherein the method is for the protection against apoptosis of liver cells and the liver cells are treated *in vitro* with the cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) in an amount effective for the protection.